

Wisbech Rural District Council



1 9 6 0

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H.

District Council Offices
Alexandra Road,
Wisbech.

M. Doreen C. Martin,
M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.



WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Chairman (Mr. E.J. Humphrey), The Vice-Chairman (Mr. M. Pentelow) and the full Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority -

Medical Officer of Health -

M. DOREEN C. MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector and Surveyor -

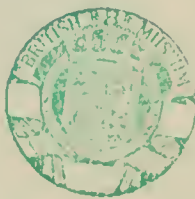
T. A. C. MARCH, F.A.P.H.I. (Up to April, 1960).

A. P. GRANT, M.A.P.H.I. (From April, 1960).

Additional Public Health Inspector and Assistant Surveyor.-

A. P. GRANT, M.A.P.H.I. (Up to April, 1960).

D. O'CONNOR, M.A.P.H.I. (From August, 1960).



WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

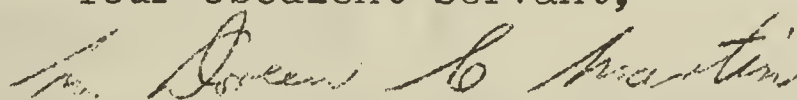
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1960.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I present, for your consideration, the Annual report of the Public Health and Welfare of the Rural District of Wisbech for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

During this year we were all saddened by the sudden death of the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. March, on 26th April. For 31 years he was a faithful Officer of the Council and he will long be remembered. I am, personally, very grateful to Mr. Grant, the additional Public Health Inspector who immediately took over Mr. March's responsibilities, and it is with gratitude that I record his help throughout the year. The other members of the Public Health staff have continued to give loyal service. Once again the Chairman and Members of the Council have given me their help and support for which I am most grateful.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,


Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	49,841 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population for 1960	12,650
Estimate mid-year population for 1959	12,600
Rateable value 1st April, 1960	£80,388
Rateable value 1st April, 1959	£75,533
Product of a penny rate	£320
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate books	4,100.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS - 215

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Birth Rate</u> <u>(adjusted)*</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	106	109			
Legitimate:	103	103	16.9	16.84	17.1
Illegitimate:	3	6			

Area comparability Factor (Births) 1.00

STILL BIRTHS - 1

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Still Birth</u> <u>Rate.**</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	1	-			
Legitimate:	1	-	4.6	29.34	19.7
Illegitimate:	-	-			

DEATHS (All causes) -

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Death Rate</u> <u>(adjusted)***</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u> 110	59	51	9.3.	10.82	11.5

Area comparability Factor (Deaths) 1.08

DEATHS - Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion - 0

DEATHS - Infants under 1 year of age -

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Infant Mortality</u> <u>Rate ****</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u> 8 (X)					
Legitimate:	5	2			
Illegitimate:	1	-	37.2	29.55	21.7

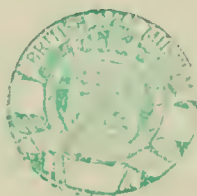
* Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1960 population

** Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still).

*** Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1960 population

**** Death of infants under 1 year, per 1,000 live births.

X 5 Neonates in Hospital.



VITAL STATISTICS (cont'd).

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR -

Prematurity	- 4	Respiratory Infection	- 2
Cerebral haemorrhage	- 1	Unknown	- 1

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE -

TOTAL: 5

Legitimate	= $\frac{M}{3}$	$\frac{F}{1}$
Illegitimate	= 1	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE - 5

DEATHS FROM CANCER (all ages) - 19

LIVE BIRTH RATE.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Wisbech R.D.	14.07	15.6	15.9	15.6	15.3	16.99
Isle of Ely	15.07	15.86	16.13	15.78	15.76	16.84
England & Wales	15.0	15.7	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1

STILL BIRTH RATE.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Wisbech R.D.	17.93	30	14.9	39.2	15.3	4.62
Isle of Ely	24.79	25.8	21.14	19.68	25.9	29.34
England & Wales	23.10	23.0	22.4	21.6	20.7	19.7

DEATH RATE.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Wisbech R.D.	8.32	8.6	7.9.	9.8	11.1	9.39
Isle of Ely	11.86	9.18	11.08	9.82	11.53	10.82
England & Wales	11.7	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.5

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Wisbech R.D.	5.74	15.46	10.1	25.5	41.5	37.21
Isle of Ely	15.706	18.61	20.22	17.92	25.19	29.55
England & Wales	24.9	23.8	23.0	22.5	22.2	21.7

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Isle of Ely Executive Council - Bank House, West End, March.

Clerk - A. R. Marsh, Esq.

East Anglian Regional Hospital Board - 117, Chesterton Road,
Cambridge.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer - Dr. J. B. Ewen.

(a) GENERAL -

- (1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.
- (2) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech.
- (3) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
- (4) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
- (5) Doddington Hospital, Doddington.

(b) MATERNITY -

Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech.

(c) INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.
Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

(d) SANATORIA -

Accommodation is provided through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

(e) MENTAL -

Accommodation is provided (through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board) usually in Fulbourne Hospital. This is arranged directly by the Local General Practitioners.

(f) VENEREAL DISEASE -

- (1) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
- (2) Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
- (3) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

(g) MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SERVICE -

Medical equipment is provided on loan by the St. Johns Ambulance Division and the Red Cross Medical Loan Depot by arrangement with the County Council.

MIDWIFERY, GENERAL SICK AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING -

The Nursing Staff is employed by the Isle of Ely County Council either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Association under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

In the Parishes given, all those undertaking midwifery and General nursing are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia and pethedine, and the necessary number of gas/air machines are available for their use.

ELM, UPWELL AND OUTWELL -

Miss A. Heney, Halfpenny Lane, ELM. (Wisbech 1806)	Q.N. S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.Cert.	Relief Midwife; General Nursing; Public Health Nursing; School Nurse.
Mrs. M. Hatton, 35, Glebe Close, MANEA.	Q.N. S.C.M. H.V.Cert.	Relief Midwife; General Nursing; Public Health Nursing; School Nursing.

WISBECH ST. MARY & PARSON DROVE -

Miss B.M. Robinson, Nurses House, Church Road, WISBECH ST. MARY.	Q.N. S.C.M.	General Nursing and relief Midwife.
---	----------------	--

LEVERINGTON, NEWTON & TYDD ST. GILES.

Miss E.M. Burdett, High Road, GOREFIELD.	Q.N. S.C.M.	Midwifery. General Nursing.
Mrs. E. Young, 3, School Lane, MANEA.	S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.Cert.	Tuberculosis Health Visitor.
Miss West, Elm Lodge, Fridaybridge Road, ELM.		Health Visitor for the Rural District.

AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

A County Council Service - there are three ambulances garaged at Wisbech Motors Ltd., Norwich Road, Wisbech.

COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

Infant Welfare Centres -

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) | Guyhirn (Village Hall) | 3rd Thursday |
| (b) | Parson Drove (Church Hall) | 1st Wednesday |
| (c) | Leverington (Church Hall) | 2nd Tuesday |
| (d) | Fridaybridge (Church Hall) | 4th Wednesday |
| (e) | Christchurch (Parish Room) | 1st & 3rd Tuesday |
| (f) | Newton (Women's Institute) | 1st Thursday. |

School Minor Ailment Clinics -

- (a) County Clinics, Lynn Road, Wisbech.
- (b) Beaupre School, Outwell.

School Dental Clinic -

Lynn Road, Wisbech.

Home Help Service -

Organised and operated by the County Council.

Disinfection and Disinfestation -

Premises - By the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

Bedding and Clothing - which cannot be dealt with by this department are sent to Peterborough Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Services -

- (a) Public Health Laboratory Service,
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.
(Director - Dr. Fry.)
- (b) Public Analyst,
S. Greenburgh, P.H.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
25, St. Barnabas Road,
Cambridge.

Swimming Baths -

There are no swimming baths in the Rural District but residents make use of the Wisbech Borough outdoor swimming pool.

Health Education -

All primiparous women are given the opportunity of attending relaxation and Mother and Baby care classes during their pregnancy. Recognised Women's Meetings e.g. Church groups and Women's Rural Institute Meetings, who occasionally ask for a speaker on Health Education, such requests are readily complied with.

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1960.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2	2
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	5	11
Leukeamia, aleukeamia	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	5	6
Coronary disease, angina	13	7	20
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart disease	5	8	13
Other circulatory disease	0	3	3
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	10	5	15
Bronchitis	3	0	3
Other diseases of the respiratory system	0	1	1
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	7	16
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	0	2
All other accidents	0	2	2
Suicide	1	0	1
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
Total	59	51	110

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1960.

Notifications:

Dysentery	0
Typhoid Fever	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0
Meningococcal Infections	0
Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	13
Diphtheria	0
Erysipelas	3
Smallpox	0
Measles	38
Pneumonia	2
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	
Paralytic	0
Non-Paralytic	0
Food Poisoning	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	0
Tuberculosis (all forms)	2
Malaria	0
Infective Jaundice	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0

Annual Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING.

I am indebted to the Senior Public Health Inspector for the following reports:-

Number of dwellings completed during 1960 -

Council Bungalows	- 13	Private	- 29
Council Houses	- <u>12</u>		
	<u>25</u>		

Number of dwellings under construction at the end of 1960 -

Council Houses	- 10	Private	- 14
Council Bungalows	- <u>4</u>		
	<u>14</u>		

UNFIT HOUSES -

The following number of unfit houses were dealt with :-

8	Demolition Orders.
5	Closing Orders.
4	Undertakings, not to re-let.

There are approximately 325 sub-standard houses distributed in the parishes as follows -

Elm	- 50
Leverington	- 72
Newton	- 14
Outwell	- 25
Parson Drove	- 30
Tydd St. Giles	- 18
Upwell	- 33
Wisbech St. Mary	- 83

RENT ACT, 1957 -

During the year one application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received, it was necessary to issue the required Certificate.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS -

Applications for grants for improvement to private dwellings have been dealt with jointly by the Public Health and Architect's Departments as in the previous year. During the year Discretionary grants were approved for 8 houses to a total of £2,340, Standard grants were approved for 5 houses to a total of £615.

BUILDING BYELAWS -

The examination of all plans submitted under the Building Byelaws, preparation of reports to the Planning Committee, and subsequent inspection of work in progress, is carried out by the Public Health Department, and during the year, 145 plans were dealt with.

CESSPOOL AND PRIVY EMPTYING -

The one cesspool emptier operated by two men was working to capacity throughout the year; in all 1,359 loads were taken from 1,112 private cesspools and privies, and 142 loads of sludge removed from the Council's Sewage Disposal Plants on 17 Housing Estates.

The increase in both new private and Council housing development together with the modernisation of existing properties in the district now make itself felt and throws an increasing burden on the one cesspool emptier and its crew. To this must be added the difficulty being experienced especially during the winter months of the disposal of emptier contents, more particularly in the northern part of the district which necessitates long journeys to suitable dumping spots across the district. It follows therefore that possibly in the near future some provision will have to be made for the adequate disposal of the emptier contents and the division of Council and private emptying work, and these points are brought to your attention for your earnest consideration.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL -

A fortnightly collection of refuse is carried out over practically the whole of the district, and twice weekly collection for about three-quarters of the year from the Agricultural Camp at Fridaybridge, by two men and one vehicle.

During the year approximately 2,080 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of.

Towards the end of the year refuse disposal was switched from the tip at Seadyke, Murrow, to the Mouse Drove tip at Guyhirn,

which had been excavated and was being used by the Borough of Wisbech, the proposed plan being that on completion of this tip, the Borough Council would commence with this Council to utilise the pit at Plash Drove, Wisbech St. Mary.

In the middle of the year, an event of importance occurred inasmuch as after years of anticipation the possible utilisation of the derelict Wisbech Canal became a reality. The filling of this Canal by a system of controlled tipping by the Wisbech and Marshland Rural District Councils and the Wisbech Borough Council, promises a foreseeable future clear of any difficulties as to new tipping space, which problem has become increasingly difficult during the past few years.

FOOD -

There was no change in regard to food premises generally, premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream, and those used in connection with the sale of Milk.

All food premises in the district were inspected and occupiers were requested to give attention to contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

MEAT INSPECTION -

No difficulty was experienced in the inspection of all slaughtered animals for human consumption in the three slaughterhouses in the district.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958 -

During the year work was commenced in connection with the preparation of the report of the slaughtering facilities in the district. The report when completed and presented, recommended that two of the three existing private slaughterhouses be closed, the one remaining being capable of being brought up to the standard required by the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958. The day, specified in the report, is the day by which all slaughterhouses in the Council's area had to comply with the afore mentioned Regulations was recommended as 1st June, 1961.

The report was then submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who subsequently approved the report subject to one observation, namely that the appointed day be 1st July, 1961.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960 -

The above Act, another important piece of Public Health legislation, also came into operation during the latter part of the year. Licences for sites for single caravans were issued in respect of four caravans and in addition a licence for a site for two caravans was issued. All such licences were subject to a standard set of conditions.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

1960

1.1.60 to
31.12.60

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed:	105	9	2	89	850	-
Number Inspected:	105	9	2	89	850	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned:	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	23	-	-	6	100	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci:	22.7	-	-	6.7	11.7	-
<u>Tuberculosis only -</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	-	-	-	-	12	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis:	-	-	-	-	1.4	-
<u>Cysticercosis -</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration:	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1947 and 1948.
Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspect ions (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Occ. Prs'ctd. (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities :	1	40	30	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	2	25	21	-	-	2
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total :	-	65	51	-	-	-

2. No defects were discovered during the year.



